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THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 19. SATURDAY, JULY 25TH, 1914. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

PUBLIC MEETING

DEVONSHIRE HALL, Mare St., Hackney,

Tuesday, July 28th, at 8 p.m.

Speakers:
SYLVIA PANKHURST, GEORGE LANSBURY,
Mrs. SCURR, Mrs. WALKER.
Chair: - - - - Mrs. HAVERFIELD.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, July 26th—Members' Outing—Brakes leave 321 Roman Rd., Bow, 9 a.m.

Monday, July 27th, 3 p.m.—Women's Hall, Bow—Members' meeting.
8 p.m.—Women's Hall, Bow.—Speakers' Class—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.
8 p.m.—"Peacock," Freemason's Rd., Canning Town—Miss Hicks.
8.30 p.m.—Swiss Cottage, South Hackney—Mrs. Walker.

Tuesday, July 28th, 8 p.m.—**Devonshire Hall, Hackney, N.E.—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mr. G. Lansbury and others.**
8 p.m.—East India Dock Gates, Poplar.
8 p.m.—Limehouse, Burdett Rd., and Coutts Rd.—Miss Smyth.

Wednesday, July 29th, 8 p.m.—319 East India Dock Rd.—Miss Jacob.
8 p.m.—Crowder's Hall, 173 Bow Rd.—Mrs. Laski.
8 p.m.—Chrisp St. & Charles St., Bromley—Mrs. Walker.

Thursday, July 30th, 3 p.m.—319 East India Dock Rd., Poplar—Women's Meeting.
2.30 p.m.—Deacon's Vestry, Burdett Rd., Limehouse—Women's Meeting.
8 p.m.—124 Barking Rd., Canning Town.
8 p.m.—Woodstock Road, Poplar—Mrs. Walker.

Friday, July 31st, 8 p.m.—Beckton Rd., Canning Town.
8 p.m.—Piggott Street, Poplar—Miss Prankerd.
8 p.m.—The Women's Hall, Bow—Members' meeting.

There will be no meeting in the Women's Hall on Sunday, August 2nd, but there will be on August 9th.

CANVASSERS WANTED.

All members of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes are urged to realise the very great urgency of canvassing to secure new members of the E.L.F.S., more readers of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT, and the names of fresh volunteers who will promise to join the "No Rent" strike when it is declared. It is by individual talks with the people of our district that we can turn opponents into sympathisers, luke warm sympathisers into hard-working friends, and comrades in the movement. The enthusiasm which is aroused at our big meetings and demonstrations is only too liable to evaporate, unless it is followed up by a systematic canvass. Therefore, canvassing forms a most necessary part of our work. Regular working parties for canvassing, DREADNOUGHT selling, and working are being organised on Tuesday afternoons, from 321 Roman Road, Bow, and 319 East India Dock Road, Poplar; but canvassing should be going on every day of the week. Those wishing to help in this direction should call either at 321 Roman Road, Bow, or at 319 East India Dock Road, Poplar.

OUR PAPER.

Week by week the production of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT is a serious drain on our funds. It is impossible to make a new paper self-supporting all at once. We ask all readers to help us at this critical time by subscribing as largely as they can towards the upkeep of the paper, and we appeal to all members and friends to sell as many copies of the paper as they can week by week.

A friend has given 5s. towards the 30s. necessary to pay for a poster at a Tube Station, who will send another subscription to add to this?

We have decided to start graduation badges for DREADNOUGHT sellers. Everyone who has sold 1,000 DREADNOUGHTS will be entitled to receive a badge, to which a stripe will be added for every additional 1,000 sold. These badges will be ready shortly.

THIS TREACHEROUS GOVERNMENT.

McKENNA & PRISON TORTURE.

THE EVIL IS GROWING.

Even the Liberal *Manchester Guardian* says:—

"Why, we may well ask once more, should forcible feeding be retained at all? It does not vindicate the law . . . ; it does not deter from the commission of crime in anything like the same degree as, by the feeling it rouses, it incites to it. It is . . . . a form of torture, and torture is no longer accepted as tolerable expedient by the English criminal law, or the criminal law of any civilised country. The utmost which it can effect, if resisted, is to postpone by a few days the release of the prisoner. . . . . In a very short time the resisting prisoner would die unless released. So long as there was no power of rearrest after release, there was some excuse for prolonging to the utmost the time during which it was possible to continue the period of imprisonment. But after that power was conferred by a special Act of Parliament this excuse disappeared. . . . . The continuance of forcible feeding under these circumstances is, we believe, a public mischief and a blot on the administration of justice."

So far from forcible feeding being abolished by the passage of the Cat and Mouse Act, the evil practice is growing. Of the thirteen Suffragist prisoners now being forcibly fed, some are convicted of window breaking only, and some are first offenders. Yet Mr. McKenna said on April 2nd, 1913, when the Cat and Mouse Act was under discussion:—

"I assure the House that it would not be my intention to use forcible feeding in the case of ordinary offences such as I have in mind at the present time—window breaking, obstruction, and so forth—but only in the case of repeated offences and real danger to the public."

The forcible feeding of window breakers and first offenders is therefore a distinct breach of faith.

Forcible feeding has now become an established practice in our prisons and is not confined to Suffragists. A man named Harry Humphreys, who considered that he had been unjustly sentenced by Justice Avory, adopted a hunger strike as a protest, and was forcibly fed 237 times. He was then warned that if he did not eat he would be removed to a lunatic asylum, and, as he still refused, was certified insane and removed to Buckinghamshire County Asylum, where he now is. Sir Victor Horsley Dr. McIntosh and Dr. Haden Guest have seen the man and report that he is perfectly sane.

One of the W.S.P.U prisoners has reported the case of a poor woman prisoner whom she met in Holloway and who told her that having lost her husband and little child she was so much overwhelmed with grief that she attempted suicide. She was sentenced to one year's imprisonment and feeling this punishment to be grossly unjust, she hunger struck. She was forcibly fed for five weeks and then told that she would be certified insane and kept in a lunatic asylum all her life if she did not submit. A similar story has also been told to another W.S.P.U. prisoner by another woman in Holloway.

Miss Underwood, a member of the Women's Freedom League, reports that the members of that organisation who were arrested for a Police Court protest and remanded to Holloway prison on Monday July 13th, say that in the cells in which they were confined were great blood stains. When taken back to prison next day they asked, before entering their appointed cells, whether there were bloodstains in them, and one of the wardresses made the significant reply: "No there is not a blood stain in it. There has been no forcible feeding in this cell." Every man who has voted to keep in power the present Government should indeed remember that he shares the responsibility for what is going on in the nation's prisons!

In reply to the protest against forcible feeding addressed to him by the Free Church Ministers, Mr. Asquith has written objecting to the statement contained in the protest, that Mr. McKenna has defended forcible feeding, not only as a means of detaining people in prison, but also

(continued on page 75)

THE OVERSEAS VISITORS AT THE E.L.F.S. STALL.

GOVERNMENT ATTACKS BISHOP'S BILL.

The Government is determined to destroy the Bishop of London's Bill for the protection of children and young girls. The Bishop's first clause:—

> raises from 13 to 16 the age at which the consent of a young person of either sex is a defence to a charge of indecent assault.

The clause as it stands is too weak for us, for we consider that, just as the property of a young man or woman is at present protected until he or she is 21, so it is even more necessary to protect a girl against criminal outrage till she is of full age. But for the Government the clause is too strong. Lord Haldane, the Lord Chancellor, has moved, on behalf of the Government, and carried in the House of Lords, a number of amendments.

> Firstly, these amendments make it impossible to make the clause apply to a boy under 16 years of age.

We are quite prepared to agree that a boy of 16 should not be treated in such cases as though he were a man, and to agree with the Bishop of London that cases in which both children are under 18 should be dealt with under the Children's Act, but we cannot assent to the view that indecent assaults are not offences if committed by boys under 16.

> Lord Haldane's second amendment wil make it possible for a man to evade punishment for an indecent assault upon a girl between 13 and 16 years of age, if he had "reasonable cause to believe that she was over 16, and if he can prove that she was 14 or more."

The effect of this amendment is to provide that the age of consent shall only be raised by one year, for any man who has assaulted a child can say, as such men always do at present, that he *thought* she was 16, and, as everyone knows, a little girl, afterwards brought into court in trouble, looks older then than she is.

Lord Haldane's amendments also draw a distinction between an act of gross indecency and an indecent assault—a new distinction—we do not know what it means. With the Bishop, we protest that the term is "rather vague." Lord Haldane's amendments provide that "an act of gross indecency" against a little girl of 13 shall be punished with *not more than six months' imprisonment with hard labour*. For an "indecent assault," which is supposed to be a lesser offence, the punishment is not stipulated.

Lord Haldane recommended his amendment by such callous and nonsensical remarks as: "In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred a young fellow is solicited by a young temptress." The amendments were carried by 52 to 12.

All this is enough to make every mother of little girls rise up in revolt, especially when we are reading such appeals as that of Mr. Cree, of the Church House, Westminster, for a new maternity rescue home for little girls under 14. There are already many of these homes, and many of their inmates are no more than ten years of age!

Is it to stop the protection of little girls that the Government refuses to give votes to their mothers?

NEARLY 90 YEARS' REPUTATION.

Neave's Food

ensures healthy happy children, stamina to invalids, and robust old age by its bone and body-building qualities. Specially recommended by "The Lancet," "British Medical Journal," Sir Chas. A. Cameron, C.B., M.D., Medical Officer of Health and Analyst for Dublin, etc., and other famous Authorities.

Used in Rearing the Royal Children of Russia, and thousands of all classes testify to its excellent virtues. For instance: Mrs. KAIN, 6, Rockingham Road, Doncaster, writes:—"DR.—ADVISED ME TO GIVE MY TWIN BOYS OF SIX WEEKS OLD YOUR NEAVE'S FOOD. I have never lost a night's rest, and they have cut their teeth without any trouble. Your Food also does away with all need of medicine and castor oil."—Aug. 22, 1912. "Hints about Baby" sent free. Sample for 2d. postage mentioning this publication to JOSIAH R. NEAVE & CO., Fordingbridge, England.

Our strike visitors from E. Back's Asbestos Factory, particulars of whose very low wages and hard conditions we gave last week, are still holding out. Councillor Partridge of 223 Old Ford Road, Bow, the Secretary of the Strike Funds, appeals for help in money or kind to give the strikers one meal each day, as many of them are in need of food. The strikers have asked Miss Sylvia Pankhurst to be their Treasurer.

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A. GLIKSTEN, *Advertisement Manager.*

The

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Annual Subscription: Post free, 4s. 4d.

No. 19.—Saturday, July 25th, 1914.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

WILL THE KING CALL A CONFERENCE ON 'VOTES FOR WOMEN'?

During the last week the newspapers have been striving to beat up excitement on the Irish situation, and Parliament has been busily engaged in discussing it. Cabinet Councils have been called and cancelled from day to day and rumours of all kinds have been current.

On Monday the *Times* announced that the King had called a conference at Buckingham Palace at which Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George were to represent the Government, Lord Lansdowne and Mr. Bonar Law the Opposition, Mr. Redmond and Mr. Dillon the Nationalists, and Sir Edward Carson and Captain Craig the Ulster Unionists.

In St. James' Park on Wednesday, members of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes attended outside the Palace with copies of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT for sale and posters inscribed, "The King must call a conference on Votes for Women." The women were several times sent away by the police and were eventually prevented from returning.

When the King met the eight members of the conference at 11.30 he said that his intervention at this moment might be regarded as a new departure, but that the exceptional circumstances justified his action. The "Cry of civil war," he declared, "is on the lips of the most responsible and sober-minded of my people," but added that it was unthinkable to him that the country should be brought to the brink of fratricidal strife upon issues which were apparently capable of adjustment. "Gentlemen," he said, "you represent in one form or another the vast majority of my subjects at home." From this particular statement we must dissent emphatically, for none of the eight representatives at the conference can be said to represent the women of the country, who form the majority of the population. The King concluded by saying "your responsibilities are indeed great; the time is short; you will, I know, employ it to the fullest advantage, and be patient, earnest and conciliatory in view of the magnitude of the interests at stake. I pray that God in His infinite wisdom may guide your deliberations so that they may result in the joy of peace and honourable settlement."

The *Times*, one of the principal fomenters of the Ulster trouble, stated on July 20th, that "the whole dispute now centres in the two counties of Fermanagh and Tyrone." The whole population of men, women and children in these two counties amounts only to 61,836,—just about equal to the number of Suffragists who marched from the Embankment to the Albert Hall to show their adherence to the cause of women's enfranchisement on 18 June, 1910.

It is well that we should consider the number of people affected by the Ulster situation. The entire population of Ulster is 1,581,696; the non-Catholic population, who are the people in whose interests the King is now supposed to be intervening, number 890,800. But these figures include men, women and children, and the men voters are the only people of whom the Government of this country take cognisance. The anti-Home Rule electorate of Ulster numbers only 141,506.

So long ago as 9th May, 1906, a deputation of Suffragists waited upon Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman, and six of the women who were present represented organisations numbering in the aggregate 259,530 women. Three other societies were represented whose numbers were not recorded; namely: The National Union of Women Suffrage Societies, whose membership is to-day, I believe, upwards of 60,000; The Lancashire and Cheshire Textile and other Workers, and the Women's Social and Political Union, which, though a comparatively small society in 1906, has now grown very large. Since that time 54 other women's Suffrage societies have sprung into being.

The Ulster Unionists are numerically as nothing compared with the ardent Suffragists in this country to-day. The whole population of Ireland, including men, women and children is only 4,390,219, whilst the women of England alone number upwards of 13,000,000. These facts are not sufficiently understood. The threatened warfare in Ulster is infinitely less serious than the suffering which women are undergoing both directly and indirectly as a result of their exclusion from the Parliamentary franchise throughout the whole of Great Britain to-day. Though we agree that men will show little appreciation of the value of representative government and of the sacredness of popular liberties if they tamely allow the functions of Parliament to be snatched away by the King and Cabinet in deciding this Ulster business, we, as voteless women, deprived of popular representation, have abundant cause to call upon the King to command that a conference to consider the Suffrage question shall be immediately set up, as Parliament has shown itself too careless and indifferent to give votes to women after our 50 years of work and struggle.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

HOW TO FORCE MR. ASQUITH'S HAND.

In reply to Mrs. Schnacke's letter (which we print on column 4, page 74), we must remember that no great reform has ever been won without risk and suffering. But let us compare the position of say three to four thousand "No Vote, No Rent" strikers with that of a solitary militant, who goes with her hatchet to smash a picture in the National Gallery, or to burn down a mansion. Night after night, through all sorts of weather, the militant may go about her task, carrying heavy loads of materials, forced to tax her strength and endurance to the uttermost by tramping many miles over little known roads, and perhaps through fields and hedges to escape detection, knowing that though she may accomplish her task this one night, and perhaps even come away free, she will be caught sooner or later, always expecting to be seized by the heavy and brutal hand of the law. When at length she is caught, she must face a trial in which she knows that the prejudice against her is stronger than that which any ordinary criminal has to meet. Her righteous motive will only secure for her the infliction of a heavier punishment. Even before conviction, and whilst the trial is going on, she will adopt the hunger strike, partly in a desperate attempt to escape years of stagnation in prison, but more largely as a protest against the refusal of Votes to Women, and in the hope of being able to make her way out to continue the fight for freedom for other women. Even before her trial is over she will be forced to undergo the painful and ignominious torture of forcible feeding, her resistance to which will only serve to increase her sufferings. When at last the continued forcible feeding (or, if she is too ill to be forcibly fed, her long abstention from food and water) has reduced her to a point of weakness, at which her life is veritably in danger, she is released for a short term, usually a week, all too short a time to restore her to any measure of health. Perhaps she is dragged back at the end of her short license, or, if she is fortunate, she escapes from the detectives who stand outside the house where she has taken refuge, and goes about the country in disguise. As soon as she is well enough, she returns again to the awful militant task which has brought her to this pass, until she is again trapped. What a life of lonely torture and effort is this which she has undertaken, in the hope of securing freedom for other women, and improved conditions for the people of this country! And all the torture which she and her companions suffer is capable of achieving less than could be done by the determined refusal of several thousand people to pay their rent until women are given votes.

Mrs. Schnacke says that she fears that when the "No Vote, No Rent" strike is started, landlords will ask the employers of labour to dismiss those of their work-people who have joined the "No Rent" strike. It is possible that the landlords may make this request, but it is more than probable that the employers of labour will refuse to disorganise the work of their various commercial enterprises in order to please the landlords. But let us assume that the employers were willing to do so. Imagine, for instance, that in a certain factory one or two workmen should be dismissed because their wives should refuse to pay rent until the Government would give them a Parliamentary vote—Would the comrades and workmates of the dismissed men submit to such a piece of tyranny? No, we are sure they would not!

Last week we reported in the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT the facts in regard to the strike at E. Back's Asbestos Factory, Old Ford Road, Bow. The strike there began because two young men had been dismissed for holding a meeting to induce their fellows to join a trade union. All the workpeople at Back's—the men, women boys and girls, at once laid down their tools and came out on strike, feeling rightly that "an injury to one is an injury to all." Can we not trust the workpeople of East London to do as much for the "No Rent" strikers if the employers of labour should dare to intervene? I am sure we can, and I am sure also that the employers know it, and would be much too wise to risk any such trouble.

Mrs. Schnacke also suggests that, though it is not legal to evict a householder until six weeks' arrears of rent have become due, the law will be set at nought and wholesale evictions will take place, the people being confronted with police and soldiery. In reply to this, we may say that we do not think it probable that the processes of law could be hastened, and that evictions could take place before the six weeks had elapsed. But the real answer to her contention is the one that she herself supplied, namely, that when the "No Rent" strikers are numerous enough (and we do not intend to start the strike until they are) the Government will find it a very difficult matter to evict the people, because even the presence of police and soldiery could not overcome the impossible situation which would be created if thousands of families were to be sent out to tramp the streets without a roof to cover their heads.

Mrs. Schnacke says:—"If we could get sufficient numbers of people to make the strike effective, there would be no necessity for a "No Rent" strike, because the time would be ripe for giving the vote itself." There is much truth in this, and it is almost certain that when we can announce that three or four thousand persons are prepared to refuse to pay their rent until women have got the vote, the Government will see that the moment has come when women's enfranchisement *must* be granted without further delay. Governments always give way when faced with a really serious situation. As soon as a large number of people show that they intend to take decisive action, the justice of their demands is conceded without a single blow being struck.

What has happened in regard to the Ulster militants has proved this very clearly. The Carsonites are prepared to fight if they do not get their own way, and though, perhaps, they cannot beat the Government troops, they are certainly strong enough to cause very serious trouble. Therefore, they have won concession after concession from the Government, and now the King is calling a conference in order that the Government may have an excuse for making still further concessions. What can be done by the Ulster militants surely we in East London can do to secure for women political freedom and a voice in the making of the conditions under which they live! Surely we can act as boldly as men and women are continually doing in the industrial world! Hardly a day goes by without its strike, the workers in some factory or other having ceased work to demand an increase in wages, a reduction in hours, or the abolition of some form of injustice. Many times the workpeople strike to secure some paltry increase of ½d. or 1d. an hour, or to protest against an injustice done to one of their comrades. Surely we should be able to realise that to prevent an injustice to every woman in the country, a "No Rent" strike is worth while! Surely we should be prepared to take a risk, which, after all, is a smaller one than that faced by the strikers in other trade disputes, in order to win for the mothers of the country the only power to take collective action which is open to the millions of toilers in our homes, who are not paid for their work, and, therefore, cannot join a trade union.

Names for the "No Rent" strike are coming in, but we want them to come in faster still. The Irish question will soon be settled, and before the politicians have time to persuade the public that the presence of some other great problem excuses them from doing anything for us, we women must insist that the question of our enfranchisement shall be dealt with straight away. Mr. Asquith has sent us another vague reply, but we can force his hand as we did when he refused to receive our deputation. Every reader of this paper who has not signed the form which appears below, should do so at once, and send it to the office of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

I promise to join the "No Vote, No Rent" Strike.

Name .....

Address .....

Mrs. SCHNACKE'S LETTER.

DEAR MISS PANKHURST,

I trust you will spare me a little of your valuable time to read my letter. I am a member of the E.L.F.S. I have thought deeply on the subject of No Vote, No Rent Strike, and I am going to point out to you a few things that perhaps in your great desire to uplift us wretched slaves you may have overlooked. First of all most of the landlords ask the name of the firm or place of employment of the husband as a sort of a guarantee of ability to pay the rent. I am afraid that when no rent was forthcoming the landlord would apply to the capitalist nigger drivers, to order their employees to pay their rent or take the sack, and unfortunately we poor know only too well what that word means to us and our dear ones. Then again where that was not practicable, on account of casual labour, we should find ourselves confronted with the police and soldiers, or perhaps both. We should find some old fashioned piece of humbug (called law) up against us whereby the Government would make it legal to put our rubbish, for that is all they would call it, our homes after many years of toil, in some disused field where it would prove a very pleasant pastime for some hired hooligans to play football with. We should be told such and such a thing is not legal, but unfortunately you and many more brave ones know to your sorrow that the powers that be—those that are law makers are law breakers. If you could get sufficient numbers of people to make the No Vote, No Rent Strike effective, there would be no necessity for a No Rent Strike because the time would be ripe for the giving of the Vote itself. Hoping we shall find some way out of our present difficulty.

Yours in the cause of freedom.

(Mrs.) ANNIE SCHNACKE.

Visitors to the East London Federation Sunday meetings in Victoria Park and elsewhere should note that in future tea may be obtained in the Woman's Hall for 3d. each.

(Continued from page 73.)

as a "deterrent" and "as a means of terrorising people away from the hunger strike." Mr. Asquith declares "That forcible feeding has never been used for any purpose except to preserve the life and health of a prisoner, and it has never been defended on any but this ground."

The Free Church Ministers reply giving Mr. McKenna's own words from Hansard vol 50, No. 7, cols 889 and 890 as follows:—

"We have had sixty-six men and women up to the present. Of these thirty-five have completed their sentences. Of these thirty-five, three were fed forcibly; all the rest took their food. Thirty-two out of the thirty-five of those who completed their sentences took food in the ordinary way. *If you were to abandon forcible feeding, I do not think those figures would hold, as the fact that it was known that the medical officers would forcibly feed prisoners had a considerable effect upon the majority of them*—not all. I have described some of the pains and tortures to which these prisoners will voluntarily submit themselves, but not all of them are like that. The majority of them, like the majority of human beings, will, *under great stress*, take the easier course."

And again;—"Of the whole sixty-six, only twelve from beginning to end have been forcibly fed, so that the *evil is not so general* as the noble lord seemed to argue, and *the fact of forcible feeding does have a material effect upon a large number of prisoners.*"

The horrible treatment meted out to Miss Francis Gordon in Perth Prison was raised in the House of Commons on July 16th, when Mr. T. M. Healy (Nationalist, N.E. Cork) asked Mr. McKinnon Wood the Secretary for Scotland, whether Miss Gordon had been forcibly fed by injections into the bowel as well as by tube through the mouth, whether she was prevented from seeing what was injected, whether the matter injected was not retained and stained the clothes which she brought out with her a dark green, whether she was dragged to the edge of the bed and had the injections given whilst she was asleep, whether the quantity of food given by the tube had to be diminished every day but was not retained, and whether the Secretary for Scotland was aware that on Miss Gordon's release on July 3rd, Dr. Mabel Jones certified that her appearance was like that of a famine victim, the skin brown, face bones standing out, eyes half shut, voice a whisper, hands quite cold, pulse a thread, wrist joints swollen, stiff and painful, breath offensive, and contents of bowel beyond control!

Mr. McKenna replied that several of the allegations could be contradicted, and that the doctor of the prison was "convinced that Miss Gordon had undergone a course of systematic drugging before entering the prison."

We are informed that Miss Gordon absolutely denies that she has taken drugs."

Dr. Mabel Jones, M.D., Lond., says:—"There is no foundation whatever for the allegation that Miss Frances Gordon had undergone a course of drugging before admission to prison. She was in remarkably good health at the time of her trial and various friends commented upon the fact."

MILITANCY.

Dorothy Evans, Madge Muir and Mary Larmour, of the W.S.P.U., were due to appear at the Belfast Assizes on July 21st. They had been committed in custody, but had been released as the result of a hunger strike and did not put in an appearance. The same morning Miss Evans, accompanied by another Suffragette, went to the house of the Lord Mayor of Belfast, in Helens Bay, Co. Down. She explaining that she was due at the Assizes, and asked him to protect her from re-arrest by providing her with a room in his house. The Lord Mayor refused and sent for a detective to take her to Belfast. She was brought into court on July 22nd, and is committed to the Assizes.

On July 21st, Ann Hunt, whose real name was Margaret Gibbs, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for damaging with a chopper Sir John Millais' portrait of Thomas Carlyle in the National Gallery.

Five members of the Women's Freedom League were arrested for chaining themselves to the door of Francis Street Police Court on Saturday 11th July. On Thursday 16th, they were brought up at Bow Street, and two of them, Miss Nina Boyle and Miss Louisa Smith, were sentenced to seven days' imprisonment on refusing to pay fines of 40s., whilst the other two were sent to prison for five days in default of paying fines of 20s.

WANTED.—Woman to do sewing and mending by the day.—Write "Box 90," *Woman's Dreadnought* Office.

WANTED to rent for August, furnished, Cottage, near London. Must have modern conveniences.—Write "Box 100," *Woman's Dreadnought* Office.

CABINET MINISTERS MIGHT LEARN FROM MRS. TERRY.

At Sigismund St., Greenwich, lives Mrs. Terry, the mother of 21 children, all but two of whom are living. Her husband earned 15s. a week when she married him. They lived in the country then, and he earned no more till they came to London when they had already seven children. Even now Mr. Terry only gets 27s. working as a carman from 4.30 a.m. till 9 p.m.

A representative of the *Daily News* interviewed Mrs. Terry a few days ago and reported her as persistently cheerful and contented, though she had never had a holiday. Even the *Daily News* reporter, who declared that this hard-working woman was always smiling, admitted that she said: "when I see the boots wearing out, it breaks my heart, because I cannot mend them like the clothes."

Mrs. Bird, a working woman of Poplar, who is the mother of six children, went to see Mrs. Terry the other day, and tells us that the latter is "absolutely disgusted with the housing conditions," and that she considers that "the rent charged to poor people is a robbery for the accomodation provided." Mrs. Terry pays 9s. a week for a house of six small rooms and a tiny yard, surrounded by dirty black boards, above which nothing is to be seen but dingy factories for making lamp black, cement, and dog biscuits.

In spite of having borne and reared her enormous family, Mrs. Terry has been a wage-earner all her life. When she was first married and lived in the country she worked at fruit and hop picking, and since she came to London she has done charing, washing, and nursing.

As may be readily understood, she began life with an extraordinarily good constitution, and has never ceased working, except for a very short time at her confinements. Fortunately, her husband has never had an illness, though many of her children have been ill from time to time.

At the present time life is not quite so hard for Mrs. Terry as it has been, for four of her children are married, and three others are earning money. One of her daughters, aged 20, is a waitress in Millwall, and is paid 7s. a week. Another daughter, aged 17, earns a miserable 6s. a week for working at Maconochie's factory, from 8 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. A son earns 18s. a week and gives 10s. to his mother; another son earning 20s. a week gives her 13s.

The low wages that her daughters are earning must give Mrs. Terry considerable food for thought. She says that she has had too hard a life to do anything towards improving conditions for herself, but she hopes and trusts that her daughters will not have as hard a life as hers.

Mrs. Bird says:—

With all her cheeriness one could detect the awful strain and struggle that this woman has undergone—the incessant demand for footwear, and the ever present nightmare of working out the best way to provide the most food for the least money. One is forced to the conclusion that she would have failed altogether in her great task if it had not been for her wonderful health and strength. She said that she has no time to be a Suffragette, but has promised that if she is ever anywhere where a Suffrage meeting is being held, she will listen to what is being said.

Well-to-do anti-Suffragists, like Mr. Asquith and other Members of Parliament, should carefully consider such cases as that of Mrs. Terry. What courage and endurance she has shown in bringing up her enormous family of children, and what very remarkable cleverness she has displayed in managing to do it on the paltry sums of money with which she has had to deal!

Sure, qualities like these would be of inestimable value in our national housekeeping. Mr. Lloyd George, and other Chancellors of the Exchequer, might learn a good deal from Mrs. Terry!

A. E. WAKEFIELD, 259 Old Ford Road, Grocer.—General Stores.—Goods of best quality. Clubs held.

The police have warned the wholesale and retail newsagents that they will be liable to prosecution if they sell the *Suffragette*. We are pleased to say that at least one newsagent in Bow is taking no notice of this injunction, but is arranging to get his papers straight from the W.S.P.U. headquarters, and has announced his intention of displaying two bills instead of one!

A PIONEER.

Miss D. Neligan, one of the oldest militants and Suffragists in this country, died on Saturday, July 18th, at the age of 81. She had always been an ardent Suffragist and pioneer for the higher education of women, and for 27 years was head mistress of the Croydon High School for Girls. After the Franco-German War she was awarded the official decoration for her services as a Red Cross Nurse at Metz. In June, 1909, at the age of 76, she accompanied Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs. Saul Solomon, and others on a deputation to the House of Commons, and was arrested with them. This was a tremendously courageous act for a woman of her great age. Her goods were three times distrained upon and sold for non-payment of taxes.

She was interested in the work of the E.L.F.S., and saw the "Woman's Dreadnought" each week. An acknowledgment of her last subscription to our funds we publish this week.

It is a blot on the scutcheon of our country that women like Miss Neligan should die after years of devoted service without being admitted to citizenship.

MRS. PANKHURST.

Mrs. Pankhurst, who was arrested outside Lincoln's Inn House on July 8th, was released in a very serious condition of health on Saturday, 11th. Her license was carefully timed by Mr. McKenna to expire on July 15th, in order that she might not be present at the W.S.P.U. meeting at Holland Park Skating Rink the following night. At 8 o'clock on the 16th, she was carried out of the Nursing Home where she had been staying, on a stretcher. She was accompanied by several nurses and a crowd of about 1,000 people, including several clergymen and doctors, had assembled. Chief Inspector O'Brien and Inspector Parker sprang into the ambulance immediately after Mrs. Pankhurst had been carried into it, whilst a uniformed policeman jumped on the box seat and ordered the driver to proceed to Holloway. Mrs. Pankhurst was released two days later on a four days' license. Meanwhile £15,000 had been raised at the W.S.P.U. meeting.

MEN OF KENT AND PREMIER.

A deputation of working men from Kent have come up to London to demand an audience with Mr. Asquith on the subject of Votes for Women. Mr. Asquith refused to see them but they replied:—

We shall call at 10 Downing Street on Saturday afternoon, the 25th inst., at 3.45 o'clock, in order to prove to the public that there is a demand for Votes for Women to which you, in opposition to the people's will, decline to listen.

TWO FINE MEETINGS.

The E.L.F.S. held two crowded meetings on Wednesday night, one at Crowder's Hall, Bow, the other at St Saviour's Hall, Poplar. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Scurr, Miss Hicks, Miss Paterson, Mrs. Ives, and Mrs. Watkins were the speakers.

WE URGENTLY NEED FUNDS.

Gratefully acknowledged—

Mrs. Baillie Weaver ...	£1	1	0
Maria Black	0	10	0
The late Miss Neligan ...	1	0	0

LIVERPOOL LAUNDRY WORKERS' STRIKE.

About 6,000 laundry workers, a large proportion of whom are women and girls, are on strike in and around Liverpool, laundries in Birkenhead, Bootle, Seacombe, Wallasey and Liverpool itself being affected. A procession of 1,300 girls and women started to march to Blundellsands Laundry on July 15th, and was met by numbers of other bands of strikers. In front of the Custom House a meeting was held at which Mrs. Bamber, the organiser, and many of the strikers spoke. A girl of 17 said that she was getting no more than 2s. 3d. a week.

The laundry workers are striking for a week of 53 hours, including a Saturday of 5 hours, and an advance in wages of 1s. a week all round. Many of them at present have to work 60 hours a week, and do not finish until 8 or 9 o'clock on Saturdays. They ask for a minimum wage of 4s. a week for girls of 14, rising to 15s. at the age of 21; a minimum of 6s. for a boy of 14, rising to 25s. at the age of 21. Some of the girls earn no more than 2s. a week, and many skilled workers only get 13s. Heavy fines are complained of, 2d. being deducted from the wages of those who are five minutes late, and in some cases girls are obliged to pay 1d. a week for hot water. Whilst the strike has been in progress many laundry vans have been held up by the women strikers. Some of the laundries have conceded the workers' demands. Others offer the women a wage starting at 4s. a week at 14, and rising to a maximum of 13s. at 21. To the men they offer 6s. at 14, rising to 25s. at 21. The strike progresses.

WOMEN WAGE EARNERS.

On Saturday, July 18th, the National Federation of Women Workers organised a procession and demonstration in Southwell Park, to demand the abolition of fines and deductions. Many bad cases were quoted. Women working at 2d. an hour were said to have been fined 1s. for being late. A woman who was paid 7d. for making a pair of trousers, accidently cut through two layers of stuff in doing so, and was made to buy the trousers for 3s. 9d. From the 5d. a dozen, to which one collar ironer was entitled, 1d. a dozen was deducted for being a few minutes late, and her fines totalled 3s. 6d. Shop assistants were fined 2d. for laughing at the dinner table, and 3d. for being late in the morning. One girl ought to have earned 2d., but owing to deductions received nothing. Another who, for making 83 gross of pins, was entitled to 1s. 9½d., received 5½d.

Then there is the case of the girls who danced to a jew's harp in the dinner hour and were each fined 2s. 6d. from a wage of 7s. 6d. The workers at a wholesale tailor's were charged 6d. a reel for machine silk which could be bought for 3d. at a neighbouring shop. For three needles a charge of 2½d. was made. Three girls earning 9s. a week in a mineral water factory were fined 2s. 6d. each for passing a dirty bottle. The foreman fined them all "to be on the safe side." Such cases could be multiplied almost indefinitely. The Truck Acts, which were passed with a view to preventing excessive fines and deductions from wages, have been so administered by magistrates as to prove practically useless. When a magistrate considers that to fine a girl for being five minutes late at the rate of 5s. a hour—her total wage being 6s. a week—is "fair and reasonable" it is scarcely surprising that factory inspectors regard it as a waste of time to take cases into the courts at all. The lesson for women is that legislation on their behalf, however fairsounding, proves useless unless they have the weapon of the vote to force its proper administration. McKenna promised a new Truck Act last November, but nothing has been done.

3½d. PER HOUR TOO MUCH FOR WOMEN.

The Shirt and Collar Making Trade Board has fixed the miserable rate of 3½d. an hour for adult women workers other than learners; the men are paid 6d. The demand put forward by the workers' representatives on the Trade Board was for women 4½d., but this was refused by the employer's and Government nominees.

The Shirt and Collar Makers' Employers Federation of Glasgow has sent out a circular letter to employers marked "private and confidential," in which all employers are urged to do their utmost to get the present rate of 3½d. an hour for women adult expert workers still further reduced. This letter points out that three months from July 1st are allowed for interested parties to lodge objections with the Trade Board, and calls upon all employers to object at once.

The women workers, whose miserable minimum is thus being threatened, must organise in return, to protect their interests. They ought to be armed with the Parliamentary vote in order that they might bring political pressure to bear when Trade Board Acts are being passed, and the Government representatives on the Trade Boards are being appointed.

A Trade Board is now being set up for the bespoke tailoring trade. It is proposed to fix 6d. an hour for men workers and 3½d. for the women. Why this difference when both are doing the same work?

OFFENCES AGAINST THE TRADE BOARDS ACT.

Samuel Steinbock, of Commercial Road, was charged at the Thames Police Court, on July 19th, with not paying the minimum wage set up by the Clothing Trade Board. He had been paying poor woman home workers 2d. a pair for trousers which it took them 50 minutes to make. The Trade Board demands that piece-work rates shall be fixed at 3½d. an hour—little enough indeed! Steinbock excused himself by saying that the women "only worked for a pastime!" He was fined £15 11s. 2½d., having broken the law by underpaying five of the women.

The manufacturer paid Steinbock who was a "middleman" 7½d. and 8d. for the trousers.

In another case a little old woman named Harriett Hawthorn, was charged with paying women home workers, to whom she gave out trousers to make for the manufacturers, 2½d. a pair for "commons," and 2¾d. for other trousers. The rates fixed by the Trade Board for this work being 2½d. and 3½d. She was fined £3 1s. 7½d. It was said that the woman and her daughter worked early and late on their own account, as well as going to and from the factory with the work done by the other women. She and her daughter made between them £1 1s. 0d. a week. If they had paid the legal rate they would have earned 4s. 4d.

The Trade Board Act appears to be striking at the wrong people—at the poor middle woman instead of the rich manufacturer.

In the past many manufacturers have preferred to deal with a small number of middle men and women rather than a large number of isolated home workers, but now that the presence of the poor go-between is found to protect manufacturers from being proceeded against under the new Trade Board Act for sweating, this system of indirect labour is likely to increase.

On Thursday, July 16th, a party of Suffragettes chartered a small launch and sailed past the House of Commons; but a police boat chased them away.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW AND BROMLEY.

Organiser—MRS. IVES,
321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

Good meetings in- and out-doors during past week. The Jumble Sale at Crowder's Hall was a great success; £4 9s. 11d. was realised, and small sums are still coming in. Many thanks to members who came to help, also to those who so willingly helped at the stall and cart, both of which were very successful. A very busy week, ending with a crowded meeting at the Women's Hall, on Sunday night, with two overflow meetings, when we had Mrs. Walker and all the strike people from Back's works, a splended entertainment preceding the speeches.

The sale of *Dreadnoughts* is steadily increasing, but we want to make it self-supporting. Let us use every effort in our power to send up the sales, and show the world what the women of the East End of London *can* do when they make up their minds! Those away on holiday can take a large number away with them—a dozen only costs 6d.—and either sell them again or give them away to advertise them. Let them leave one in tram, bus, or train, whenever they travel, and the sales will soon go up. Come along members, let us beat the record, we can if we like to try!

Dreadnoughts sold week ending July 17th
Central 554. Bow and Bromley 542.

Mrs. Connell—160
Miss Marks—201

Distributed—Mrs. Burton 500; Mrs. Connell 250; Mrs. Knudson and Mrs. McCheyne 350; Mrs. Savoy 250; Mrs. Weaver 200; Mrs. Clarke 200; Mrs. Husted 200; Mrs. Mantle 200; Mrs. Hope 200; Mrs. Watkins 200; Miss Paterson 200; Mrs. Pascoe 100; Mrs. Castile 200; Mrs. Lake 50.

POPLAR.

Organiser—MISS MARY PATERSON.
Office—319 EAST INDIA DOCK ROAD.

A number of Poplar members went up to Holloway to meet Mrs. Walker, and joined her at breakfast at the Women's Hall. She was welcomed in Bow at the Sunday evening meeting, and in Poplar at St. Saviour's Hall. Thanks to Miss Hicks (Aberfeldy Street) for tarts for tea at Thursday's meeting, and to Mrs. Neuss for tea and sugar for forthcoming weeks. We are glad to know that Mrs. Unwin has returned home from hospital, and that she introduced the *Dreadnought* to nurses and patients while there. A good contingent from Poplar will be at the Outing on Sunday, July 26th. Will all members please remember that their holiday will give them a splendid opportunity for making the *Dreadnought* more widely known. Every member must take copies away with her for sale or distribution.

Dreadnought sales during week ending July 17th—142.
The Misses Lagsding—50.

Distributed.

Upper North St. Dist. *Captain*, Mrs. Bird, 90 Suffolk St. *Helpers*, Mrs. Bertram, Mrs. Neuss, Mrs. Skeet, Misses Lagsding, Mrs. Cressell, Mrs. Organ—1,500.

Chrisp St. Dist. *Captain*, Mrs. Fyffe, 37 Morris Rd. *Helper*, Miss Edy—400.

Kerbey St. Dist. *Captain*, Mrs. Schlette, 128 Kerbey St. *Helper*, Mrs. Churcher—200.

Burdett Rd. Dist. Mrs. Walker and Miss Lloyd—300.

Mrs. Hicks, 36 Aberfeldy St.—200.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Hon. Sec.—MRS. DAISY PARSONS,
94 Ravenscroft Road.

At the reception held at 400 Old Ford Road on the 8th, our member, Mrs. Pullen, won a large basket of fruit in a raffle, and sold it for 7s. 6d., and the buyer presented it to Miss Pankhurst. Splendid meeting held on Thursday, July 16th, when members wished Miss Paterson and Miss Hicks many happy returns of the day. We were surprised to see Miss Pankhurst and Mrs. Payne walk in. The members are thanked who helped to make the evening a success, either by singing, playing, or washing up. Will members all make an effort to spread the *Dreadnought* by taking copies away with them on their holidays, and selling or distributing them.

103 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending July 17

Canning Town. Dist. leader—Mrs. Millo, 1 Ravenscroft Rd. Distributors—Mrs. Sands, Mrs. Roper, Mrs. Tidmarsh, Mrs. Little and Mrs. Parker.

Plaistow. Dist. leaders—Mrs. Hawkins, 29 Beaufoy Rd. Distributors—Miss Putt, Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Lawrence.

Custom House. Dist. leader—Miss Leggett, 74 Chauntler Rd. Distributor—Miss Cox and Miss Pullen.

Tidal Basin. Dist. leader—Miss Penn, 10 Brent Rd. Distributor—Miss Greenleaf.

Silvertown. Dist. leader—Miss Grimes, 27 Newland St. Distributors—Miss Florrie Nicholas, Miss Ivy Hall and friends.

HACKNEY.

Secretary—Miss YOUNG,
Cromwell House, Greenwood Road,
Dalston, N.E.

Exceptionally good meeting at Swiss Cottage, Laureston Road, on Monday night, the speaker being much applauded. 30 *Dreadnoughts* sold. We are looking forward to the Devonshire Hall meeting on Tuesday, July 28th. Women's meetings will in future be held regularly on Tuesday afternoons, beginning August 4th, at 31 Churchill Road, Hackney.

ADVERTISE IN OUR PAPER.

WHY should people deal with you rather than go elsewhere? Because you have something better or cheaper than others have. But the public cannot know this unless you tell them.

The best way to tell them is by an advertisement in the—
WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

The WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT has a circulation of 20,000 copies weekly and is read all over Bow, Poplar and Canning Town, as well as in more remote districts.

The WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT is read by **women** who are the world's buyers.

The WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT makes a special appeal to its readers to deal with its advertisers. For every one who is prejudiced against our advertisers, twenty will be prejudiced in their favour, **because the people who are opposed to the movement won't read the paper.**

The WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT is delivered from house to house every week all over your district. This alone makes it **your best advertising medium in all East London.**

OTHER EAST LONDON SOCIETIES.

E. LONDON MEN'S SOCIETY FOR W.S.

Hon. Organiser: Rev. C. A. WILLS, B.A.
188 Devons Road, Bow, E.

We still need a greater number of members to attend and help keep order in Hyde Park, and prevent meetings being broken up as happened last Sunday.

Excellent meetings were held during the previous week. The speakers at Victoria Park next Sunday will be the Rev. C. A. Wills, Mr. Clark and Mr. Jouning—Chair: Mr. J. A. Kitchen—12 noon.

We still need more members, applications should be sent to the Organiser. We are getting some badges made. Members desiring same should send 3d. to cover cost and postage.

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following—Mrs. Meinertzhagen £3, Mrs. Sadd-Brown £2, Mr. H. D. Harben £2. We hope to take permanent offices shortly.

Speakers wanted for open-air meetings. please send list of vacant dates. Expenses will be paid.

R. S. P. U.

Hon. Sec.—MR. J. BONARIUS.

Dreadnoughts sold 100.

The Friday meeting this week is in connection with Back's Strikers. Outing to Hastings on Sunday last was a success, and Hastings is painted with "R.S.P.U., London" and "Votes for all women," from the door-step of Hastings' Castle to the carriage door.

The R.S.P.U. is holding a Social in the Woman's Hall, on Saturday, August 1st, at 8 p.m. Admission by Programme 3d.

THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN SWEDEN.

On July 2nd, a deputation of Suffragists waited on the Swedish Premier to present a petition signed by 350,000 women over 18 years of age. The largest petition for men's suffrage ever presented in Sweden was in 1907, when signatures numbered 360,000, as 60,000 of the signatures to that petition were those of women it will be seen that more women have petitioned for enfranchisement than men.

A Women's Suffrage Bill was first introduced into the Swedish Parliament 30 years ago, and since then 27 Bills have been introduced, three of them having passed through the House of Commons. The Swedish Women's Suffrage Society has 17,000 members, the entire population of Sweden being only about five millions.

IN DENMARK.

The Danish Lower House of Parliament decided to include women in the new Constitution Bill by a majority of 102 votes to 6. The Constitution Bill was rejected by the Upper House, and fresh elections were necessitated. The progressive parties, who were responsible for the Bill, were returned by a large majority in the Upper House as well as in the Lower. Votes for Danish women are, therefore, expected very soon.

MORE AMERICAN SUCCESSES.

Ohio is one of the American States where, by means of what is called the "*Initiative*," a law may be passed by a *Referendum* vote of the electors, without passing through the legislature, if a sufficient number of voters will petition for it. 104,000 electors in Ohio have now petitioned that Votes for Women shall be placed before the electorate, and the question will, therefore, be submitted to the voters in November. This is said to be the largest *Initiative* petition ever secured in the world.

The Louisiana House of Representatives has carried a Votes for Women amendment by 61 votes to 30.

In the State of Nevada, where Votes for Women is to be submitted to the electorate in the autumn, all the labour organisations have come out in support of it.

A deputation, representing a million members of the General Federation of American Women's Clubs, interviewed President Wilson, to demand Votes for Women, on June 30th.

In the House of Commons on July 15th, Lord Newton said that the Suffragists had been exasperated by the dishonest juggling by which the Government had turned the Reform Bill into that Party measure, the Plural Voting Bill. The Government was responsible for turning Suffragettes into "wild women."

OUR LITTLE GIRLS ARE IN DANGER.

On July 10th three cases of indecent assault upon little girls were tried at the Dublin City Sessions. Herbert Jones, a married man of 33, was charged with having assaulted a girl of eight years in a garden at the back of his house. The child told her story intelligently and distinctly, and was subjected to vigorous cross-examination. Her evidence was supported by the wife of a well known Dublin journalist, who witnessed what took place from her window. The jury found a verdict of guilty and recommended the prisoner to the clemency of the court. The case was adjourned, and the next day the Rev. Lewis Crosby appealed to the Recorder for lenient treatment for the prisoner. A sentence of six weeks' imprisonment with hard labour was imposed. The girl in this case was the daughter of an employer of labour.

Thomas Madden, of no fixed abode, who worked as a blackleg in a recent lock-out, was charged with assaulting a little girl of less than 8 years, the daughter of a poor workman. He had infected the child with venereal disease. Prisoner pleaded not guilty and was discharged, the Recorder informing the child's father that no permanent injury had been done to her. Immediately afterwards a young woman, holding a baby in her arms, rose in the gallery of the court and said: "Is this what you call justice?" She added that she was the wife of the man who had just been discharged, and that three weeks after their marriage she had been obliged to become an inmate of the Lock Hospital, having been infected by her husband. "I may go to the Workhouse now," she concluded, bursting into tears, and was led out of the court, weeping bitterly.

Patrick Lynch, who was said to be the son of respectable parents, was charged with an indecent assault on a girl of 16 in the gallery of a theatre. He was found guilty and sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment with hard labour. The Recorder said that he was "a respectable but coarse-minded man."

It is noticeable that the man Thomas Madden, who had committed the worst offence of these three, was the man discharged, the excuse being that the little girl whom he had injured was too young to give evidence, though no one appears to have doubted the facts. This was probably in part due to the fact that her father was poor and without influence.

But each of these three cases clearly illustrates the outrageous fact that for some trivial theft, or other offence against property, a man or woman may receive a heavy sentence, whilst grossly indecent assaults against little girls are treated with excessive leniency.

The Dublin Trades' Council passed a resolution protesting against the acquittal of Madden, and has forwarded this to the Labour Party and the Irish Party, the Chief Secretary for Ireland, the Chief Commissioner of Police and Archbishop Walsh.

A deputation representing 24 Vigilance Associations waited on Mr. Ellis Griffith at the Home Office on Thursday, July 16th, to press for the appointment of policewomen with the full and complete status of police officers and power of arrest. A second deputation from the Criminal Law Amendment Committee asked that every local authority should be obliged to appoint two women constables.

It was urged that policewomen would be able to give better advice and protection to women than men constables, that women ought to take the depositions of women and children in all cases involving immorality, and that the presence of policewomen would make for the improvement and safety of parks and open spaces, where children are only too frequently exposed to grave danger at the present time, and also that women's lodging houses should be inspected by women, and that women officials should be present in dance halls and cinema shows.

Mr. Ellis Griffith returned a non-committal reply, suggesting many difficulties, but promising to put the views of the deputation before the Home Secretary. He said: "It is a very moot point, and a difficult one in law, as to whether women can be appointed constables at the present time. I think the more strongly expressed opinion is that they cannot. If that is so, you must legislate, and legislation is not easy in these days."

Women are non-voters, and difficulties are always put in the way of legislating for things that non-voters want. Our little girls will never receive adequate protection until women secure the vote.

CALL NO MAN MASTER.

The other day when pilgrims were visiting Abdul Baha at Acca, one man approached him, and was about to kiss his feet, but he restrained him, saying that kissing the hands, the feet, kneeling, and bowing are strictly forbidden in the Bahai Dispensation, and that these outward manners are injurious to the nobility and majestic grandeur of the soul. They pollute the minds, degrade the loftiness of characters, and debase the beauty of human nature. Miss Mary Blomfield's mother and friends, who thought it necessary to repudiate her action recently, when she approached the King on behalf of the women being tortured in prison by forcible feeding, will take comfort from the above, as they are close followers of Abdul Baha!

ABOUT THE DUSTBIN.

Dr. Smith, the Medical Officer of Health for Wandsworth, urges that to prevent the high death rate from Diarrhœa and Enteritis, especially amongst infants, dustbins should be emptied every day. He points out that the dustbins swarm with house-flies and that these are a serious cause of infection.

Housewives in the Borough of Poplar, who are only provided by the Borough Council with small dust pails without lids, which are emptied but once or twice a week, should make an urgent protest.

The Domestic Servant Problem.

BY JESSIE STEPHEN.

Much has been written about the shortcomings of domestic servants—some of it real, most of it imaginary. Every newspaper and periodical you take up nowadays contains a column or two about the scarcity of domestic servants. Of course, there is a reason for this scarcity and employers know it. Conditions of labour remain much as they were 50 years ago, and no one cares if they continue so till doomsday.

It is to remedy the evils of the present system that the Domestic Workers' Union was formed over three years ago. This is the first genuine trade union for domestic servants, although unions of parasitic variety have existed for years. The first members had a hard struggle to keep their end up, and had to share the expenses of organisation. This in itself was a great drawback, because servants, taking them in general, are very inadequately paid. However, if funds were few, enthusiasm was great, and to such good tune that in a few months they had enrolled over **100** members. Unless the reader has worked among domestics she cannot understand how much labour this entailed. I, myself, for instance, have spent twelve months trying to convert one single girl, dropping in on her when I knew she would be in the mood for a chat. To me, at times, it seemed a sheer waste of time, but I persevered, and perseverance conquered in the end. Some girls see reason in five minutes, others in as many months. That by the way, however. The Union has gone from small things to larger things, and now proposes opening two houses this year as hostels and training centres for domestic servants, one in Glasgow and one in London. In this connection an appeal has been issued for the collection of the necessary funds. Through these hostels the Union hopes greatly to improve conditions, although they have a very modest little programme at present, which includes the following demands:—

(1) 5s. per week minimum wage.
(2) Half day once a week.
(3) Compulsory character note.
(4) 14 days' holiday once a year on full wages.
(5) Good and nourishing food.

And last but not least—

(6) Sanitary bedrooms.

To many workers the above demands may seem trivial, but I can say from experience that if we get one half of them granted—which we will very shortly—domestic service will become a much more congenial occupation for girls, and we shall hear less nonsense talked about domestic servants being ignorant and other stale witticisms which daily appear in the newspapers. We are out with the rest of the working women to fight for our rights, and will not rest content till we have made a vast improvement on our present conditions.

For the benefit of interested readers I may say that a postcard sent to the Secretary, at 66 Queen's Road, Bayswater, or 28 Raeberry Street, Glasgow, Scotland, will bring full information as to objects of Union and fees.

We should like to call the attention of the Domestic Workers' Union to the contract enforced by the Servant Girls' Union of Copenhagen, Denmark. This provides for two free evenings in each week and every other Sunday and public holiday, after 2 p.m. It limits the working hours to 10½ between 6 in the morning and 9 at night, and provides that after 7 p.m., the servant may not be asked to do more than serve one meal, and to perform such tasks as turning down beds and placing lights in bedrooms. If servants are asked to do such things as washing, ironing and cleaning, after 7 p.m., they must be paid overtime, of 35 öre, (about 3½d.) an hour. The holiday fixed by this contract is only eight days in the summer, but it provides for payment of full wages and in addition 1s. 1d. a day for food money.

EX-INSPECTOR SYME'S CASE.

No one will take it as any proof of the incorruptibility of our police force that Mr. Syme was found guilty of criminal libel against Sir Edward Henry. A single man has obviously no chance of impartial judgment in a court where his judges are part and parcel of the system which he is trying to expose. In this particular case documents of whose existence Mr. Syme was aware, and which he demanded should be produced as evidence, were reported as "lost" from the Home Office files! Suffragettes are well aware that inconvenient truth is never allowed to come out where the police are concerned.

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